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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/655,547	09/04/2003	Robert Michael Roberts	UVMO:003USC1	5542
32425	7590	12/02/2004	EXAMINER	
FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P. 600 CONGRESS AVE. SUITE 2400 AUSTIN, TX 78701			CHEU, CHANGHWA J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1641	

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/655,547

Applicant(s)

ROBERTS ET AL.

Examiner

Jacob Cheu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 182-196 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 182-196 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's amendment and declaration filed on 11/24/2004 has been received and entered into record and considered.

Claims 1-181 are cancelled.

Claims 182-196 are currently under examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 182-196 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for PAGs 4, 6, 7, 16, 17, 20 and 21, does not reasonably provide enablement for all PAGs antigens. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

The instant claims direct to a method for detecting pregnancy in a bovine animal comprising detecting at least one pregnancy associated antigen (PAG) in a sample from the pregnant animal that is present early in pregnancy and is undetectable at about two months post-partum; whereby detection of the PAG indicates that the animal is pregnant.

Applicant's declaration indicates the following PAGs including, PAGs 4, 6, 7, 16, 17, 20 and 21, can be used to detect pregnant bovine animal in the biological samples, e.g. milk, saliva, or urine (See Declaration, paragraph 13 and 14) (See MPEP 2164.01(b) (citing *In re Fisher*, 427 F.2d 833, 839, 166 U.S.P.Q.18, 24 (CCPA 1970); also See *Johns Hopkins Univ. v. Cellpro, Inc.*, 152 F.3d 1342, 1361 (Fed. Cir. 1998)). However, Robert et al.

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(Aspartic Prot. Struct. Funct. Biol. Impl. (1995) 231-240), teach at least one PAG, namely PAG-1, useful for detection bovine pregnancy, had an apparent half-life, and “requires at least 3 months for levels to drop back to threshold values, and cows are customarily bread within 2 to 3 months after calving” (See Figure 1, page 233, first paragraph). In another word, the PAG-1 taught by Robert et al. can be detected at the two-month period of time (emphasis added). This is inconsistent with the recited claim language with respect to the PAG “that is present early in pregnancy and is undetectable at about two months post-partum” (See claim 1, emphasis added). Applicant’s intention in claiming whole genus of PAG lacks solid support or working example. At least, one PAG, i.e. PAG-1, does not fall within the scope of the claimed invention.

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 182-192 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With respect to claim 182, line 3, “the sample that is present early in pregnancy and is undetected at about two months post-partum’ is vague and indefinite. It is not clear how “early” can the PAG being detected.

Response to Applicant’s Arguments

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5. The enablement rejections of claims 182-196 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, are withdrawn in view of the declaration. However, applicant's arguments are moot in view of the new ground rejection.

Conclusion

6. No claim is allowed.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jacob Cheu whose telephone number is 571-282-0814. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le can be reached on 571-272-0823. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

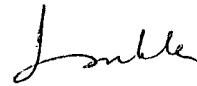
Jacob Cheu



Examiner

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November 24, 2004


LONG V. LE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600

11/29/04